

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE

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variably in Advance.
Six months, 75 cents. No subscription for a
less period received.

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editor of the last paper received, and specify any cor-
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dress.

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Military, Agricultural, Industrial and Household
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THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE

WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 19, 1888.

ANNIVERSARY OF CHAMPION HILLS.

MAKE IT A LOGAN DAY.

On the 16th of May, 1863, was fought
that many regard as really the turning
battle of the war. Gen. Grant had taken
the desperate step of placing his army across
the Mississippi below Vicksburg, and in
front of two armies which, united, outnumbered
his. If he was defeated destruction
was certain, and the Government must
abandon all hope of opening the Mississippi.
Pemberton's army was brought to battle
at Champion Hills, and by the skill and
courage of Gen. Logan it was utterly
defeated and driven in confusion into
the intrenchments of Vicksburg. He was
prevented from joining his forces to those
of Johnston, and the safety of Grant's army was
assured. Logan won his brightest laurels
that day, and had he not been recalled by
Grant he would have completed the destruction
of Pemberton's army.

The coming 16th of May will be the 25th
anniversary of that glorious victory. Why
not make it a Logan Day in every Post in
the G. A. R., when contributions will be
gathered for raising a grand monument to
the greatest of American volunteers?

Go about this at once, comrades, and it
will be an easy matter to raise money enough
to build a monument, which will be a credit
to our illustrious comrade, to our Order, and
to the American soldier.

As a specimen of what can be done with a
little effort, we give the following letter:

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Indeed you will
find that for \$120 contributed by members of Tod
Post, No. 25, Department of Ohio, including a list
of names of contributors. The enclosed heading to
the list will explain what the money is to be used for.
Tod Post is not a flourishing condition. We have a
well furnished hall, a splendid Silver Cornet Band
of 25 members, and expect to attend the National
Encampment at Columbus in full force. Our Post
now numbers 108, and still they come.

Yours, in G. A. R. and U. S. A., J. M. O'NEIL, G. M.

The following named and numbered members of
Tod Post, No. 25, Grand Army of the Republic, De-
partment of Ohio, Youngstown, contribute the
sums opposite their names, and have been secured
for the credit of the National Capital of a G. A. R.
memorial monument to the memory of our late
illustrious comrade, Gen. John A. Logan:

G. Linsley	\$1.00
M. L. Frish	.50
A. S. McNulty	1.00
Henry C. Schwartz	.50
Austin Porter	.50
James Orr	.50
John O. McGowan	.50
J. D. Orr	.50
Frank White	1.00
L. Fisher	.50
John Kehler	.50
L. D. Hollaway	.50
Isaac Vesper	.50
George J. Williams	.50
Owen Harvey	.50
J. T. Glynn	.50
R. L. Campbell	.50
Bentley	.50
Robert Slacy	.50
D. Porter	.50
F. F. Johnson	.50
L. J. Janssen	.50
M. L. Lyne	.50
G. C. Lyne	.50
H. C. Daily	.50
H. S. Adams	.50
B. A. Brownlee	1.00
Emil Brownlee	1.00
S. E. Ridgway	.50
C. B. Rainer	.50
M. B. Rainer	.50
M. M. Vaillet	.50
Samuel P. Hall	.50
W. L. Sloan	.50
Samuel Sloan	.50
William McKinley	.50
G. S. Hawk	.50
E. H. Kizer	.50
J. H. Brown	.50
John L. Brown	.50
Thomas Brown	.50
J. F. Winters	.50
J. H. Fowler	.50
John E. Davis	.50
George A. Thomas	1.00
D. N. Lett	.50
N. W. Wood	.50
John S. Orr	1.00
W. H. H. Simpson	.50
W. H. Sawyer	.50
T. W. Sanderson	.50
G. C. Nelson	.50
C. F. Cahalan	1.00
John Sampson	1.00
S. B. Ralph	.50
G. Cooke	.50
F. J. Clark	.50
Isaac Footsitt	.50
M. S. Clark	.50
A. Lutz	.50
M. H. McCullough	.50
Total	\$32.40

The other contributions for the
week were:

Th. E. Van Espe, Portia, Ill.	1.00
Phil Smith	.50
A. Friend	.50
John Harrison, Radon, Wis.	.50
K. A. Morrison, Kings Bridge, Pa.	1.00
Wm. Hoffman, Iowa Falls, Iowa	1.00
E. K. Perce, Williamsport, N. Y.	1.00
K. A. Hoyt, Forest, Ill.	1.00
H. Hunt	.50
S. Cooper	.50
D. Duckett	.50
F. Duckett	.50
John E. Fry, Trenton, N. J.	.50
Fielding Hall Post, No. 7, Adamsville, Tenn.	4.00
Joseph Bradford, Licking, Mo.	.50
D. T. M. Crow	.50
Bob Wiley	.50
W. M. McDuck	.50
E. Anderson	.50
E. Edgerton	.50
J. N. Hargard	.50
Keno Post, No. 8, Hagenstown, Md.	5.00
Total	\$27.45
Previously acknowledged	\$197.45
Total	\$224.45

What Tod Post has done, every other in
the Order can do, and should at least try
to do. Comrades, let us hear from you.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE'S PENSION BILL.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE'S course with
regard to pension legislation has been clear,
consistent and unwavering. It has been
defined so often, and in such unmistakable
language, and every line that has appeared
in the paper has been so strictly in accord
with that position, that there has not been
the least excuse on the part of anyone for
mistaking it.

For years we have insisted, week in and
week out, that the first preliminary steps in
pension legislation was for the Government to
carry out its contract to give proper pensions
to those who were wounded or broken down,
for the widows, orphans and dependent
relatives of those who were killed or died,
and to make suitable provision for the veterans
who are disabled from maintaining them-
selves. Before anything else was done, or even
considered, we have constantly said the Na-
tion should provide food, clothing, shelter,
fuel and medicines for those who were once
its stalwart fighting men, but are now de-
crepit and needy. In this position we have
had the enthusiastic support of the friends
of the soldiers everywhere, and the veterans
have rallied around us as a regiment around
its colors. Those ideas were formulated in the
various bills known as "The Amendments to
the Mexican Pension Bill," the "Dependent
Pension Bill," and the "Disability Pension
Bill."

From the first we have asserted that this de-
mand was not a finality, but merely a begin-
ning; that as soon as this concession was ob-
tained we had other measures of more
general benefit, of wider-reaching justice, to
urge.

After the passage of the Dependent Pen-
sion Bill by the 49th Congress, and the near-
ness to success in repealing it over the veto,
after its overwhelming endorsement by a
popular vote of the Grand Army of the
Republic, and after a majority of the present
House of Representatives had been elected
upon distinct pledges to vote for it, or as im-
plied measure, we had every reason to expect
that its passage would be one of the very
first acts of the present Congress. That
this has not been done, is, we firmly believe,
the fault of the Chairman of the Committee
on Invalid Pensions, who has, in spite of
all urging, allowed five precious months of
this session to pass away without reporting
the bill to the House. Not in anger, but in
sorrow—in very deep sorrow—do we say
this. No one has wished with more earnest-
ness than we that Col. Matson had earned
for himself the applause and gratitude of
the veterans throughout the length and
breadth of the land by pushing to its
passage the bill which would have taken
thousands of soldiers from the poorhouses,
and would have brought comfort to thou-
sands of homes where want and distress now
reign. What reasons he may have had for
neglecting this high duty we will not now
say.

We still have hopes of the passage of the
Disability Bill in substantially the form in
which we and others have urged it for the
past five years.

And anticipating the speedy passage of the
Disability Bill—firmly expecting that the
rescue of the veterans and their dependent
ones from the cold mercies of the poorhouse
would be no longer delayed,—we prepared
a bill, to be introduced as soon as the
Disability Bill was fairly out of the way,
and which represented our ideas of what
further justice the Nation should render to
those to whom it owes everything. This
was in accordance with the plan that we
constantly urged upon our friends.

We have withheld this bill, waiting for
the passage of the Disability Bill, until this
advanced stage of the session, when we feel
it should be withheld no longer, since its
introduction and discussion now cannot em-
barrass or affect, one way or the other, the
passage of the Disability Bill.

Our bill, which we have named "THE
NATIONAL TRIBUNE Pension Bill," pro-
vides as follows:

A Bill to equalize pensions, to facilitate prompt
settlement thereof, and for other purposes.
Enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress
assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be,
and he is hereby authorized and directed to place
on the pension roll, upon application therefor, the
names of the surviving honorably discharged offi-
cers and enlisted men of the military and naval
services of the United States who actually served
90 days, or more, subsequent to the 4th day of
March, 1861, and prior to the 4th day of May, 1865.

Sec. 2. That pensions under section 1 of this act
shall be at the rate per month of one cent for each
day's service rendered; and payable only from and
after the passage of this act, for and during the
natural lives of the persons entitled thereby; Pro-
vided, however, That in each and every case where
the service so rendered was less than 90 days, the
pension shall be at the rate herein established for
a service of 90 days, to wit, \$8.

Sec. 3. That all invalid pensioners who are now
receiving pensions under existing laws, or whose
claims are pending in the Pension Office, or before
Congress, may, by application to the Commissioner
of Pensions, in such form as he may prescribe, re-
ceive the benefits of this act; and nothing herein
contained shall be so construed as to prevent any
pensioner thereunder from prosecuting his claim
and receiving his pension under any other general
or special act at his election at any time: Provided,
That no pension shall receive more than one pen-
sion for the same period.

Sec. 4. That if any honorably discharged officer
or enlisted man of the military or naval service of
the United States, who served during the period
specified in section 1 of this act, has died, or shall
hereafter die, leaving a widow, such widow shall
be placed upon the pension roll upon her applica-
tion at the rate of \$12 per month: Provided, That
said widow was married to the deceased officer, or
enlisted man, prior to the passage of this act. And
provided further, That all pensions granted to
widows under this act shall take effect from the
date of death of the husbands of such widows

respectively, but not dating from any date prior
to the passage of this act.

Sec. 5. That rank in the service of any officer or
enlisted man shall not be considered in applications
under this act.

Sec. 6. That section 4716 of the Revised Statutes
is hereby repealed so far as the same relates to this
act; or to pensions under this act: Provided, That this
act shall not apply to those persons under the
political disabilities imposed by the 14th Amend-
ment to the Constitution of the United States.

Sec. 7. That the Secretary of the Interior be, and
he is hereby authorized and directed to employ
100 clerks, or such additional force as may, in his
discretion, be deemed necessary additional to those
now employed in the Pension Bureau, to adjudicate
all claims arising under the provisions of this act
within two years from the date of the passage
hereof. And he is further directed, That the Secre-
tary of War be, and he is hereby authorized and
directed to employ 500 additional clerks, or such
force as may be necessary, in the office of the Ad-
jutant-General, United States Army, to dispose of the
increased work consequent upon the passage of this
act. And he is further directed, That the several
United States Pension Agents be authorized to in-
crease their clerical force, subject to the approval
of the Secretary of the Interior, to an extent neces-
sary to promptly dispose of the increased work
consequent upon the passage of this act, not to ex-
ceed 12 at each agency, and whose salaries shall be
paid out of the moneys to be appropriated by this
act.

Sec. 8. That so much as may be necessary to pay
the pensions provided for in this act, and to pay for
the increased clerical force in the office of the
Commissioner of Pensions, the Adjutant-General,
and the United States Pension Agents heretofore
authorized to be employed, be, and the same is
hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the
Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Sec. 9. That any agent, attorney, or other person
instrumental in presenting any claim under this
act who shall, directly or indirectly, contract for,
demand, receive, or retain, for his services or in-
strumentality in presenting and prosecuting such
claim, a greater sum than \$10 (payable only upon
the order of Commissioner of Pensions, by the
Pension Agent making payment of the pension
allowed), or who shall wrongfully withhold from
a pensioner or claimant the full amount of any part
of the pension or claim allowed and due such pen-
sioner or claimant, shall be deemed guilty of a
misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall,
for every such offense, be fined not exceeding \$500,
or imprisoned not exceeding two years, or both, in
the discretion of the court. Provided, That no fee
whatsoever shall be allowed to any person who-
soever in any case where an invalid pensioner is
granted an increase under the provisions of this
act.

Sec. 10. That all laws or parts of laws which con-
flict with the provisions of this act shall be, and
the same are, hereby repealed.

We invite the most careful study and
criticism of this bill. We have but one ob-
ject to gain by it, and that is to secure the
nearest approach to justice for the greatest
number of veterans. If any one can show
how it can be improved—all things consid-
ered—we will welcome the suggestion.

The bill is the result of three years of
careful study of the pension problem in all
its phases, and we are confident that the
more it is examined the more highly it will
be approved. While it contains the best
features, not of one alone, but of all the gen-
eral pension measures which have been
urged upon the attention of Congress, it is
free from their crudities, injustices, inequali-
ties, and other obnoxious qualities, and has
new and good features of its own. A few
words as to its main features:

1. It places on the pension-roll every man
who served three months or more.

2. It recognizes a principle for which we
have long struggled; that is, the abolition
of all the petty divisions and subdivisions
in the lower ratings, and provides that no
pension shall be less than \$8 a month, and
increases all on the roll to that rate. To
offer less than that is belittling to the man
and his services, and is unworthy of the
Government he helped to save.

3. It recognizes length of service as a
proper basis of discrimination, and gives the
man who served during the war about \$15
a month. For shorter periods of service the
ratings range down to \$8 a month.

4. It makes effective provision for dispos-
ing of the whole volume of pension business
at once, and so end the sickening delays
which now break the veteran's heart. Suf-
ficient clerical force is to be added to the
Pension Bureau and to the office of the
Adjutant-General and the Pension Agencies
to dispose of all the cases arising under the
act within two years at the farthest.

We lay the bill before our readers with
the utmost confidence that it forms a plat-
form upon which every veteran and every
man who wishes the veterans well will be
glad to place his feet.

It is a measure of justice which must com-
mend itself to all who appreciate what the
veterans gained for this country, what the
enormous cost to them was, and what is due
them from the Nation which they reunited,
made powerful and prosperous.

It is a banner around which we can all
rally with enthusiasm and march forward
with abundant assurance of ultimate vic-
tory.

Let us touch elbows under it, and
move forward as we used to with confidence
and determination. We will win under it
if we take our place in line firmly resolved
to be content with nothing less than com-
plete victory.

CHAIRMAN MATSON'S REPORT.

Below is the report of the Chairman of the
House Committee on Invalid Pensions, ac-
companied the amendments to the Senate
Bill granting Pensions to all disabled ex-
soldiers and sailors:

In the 49th Congress a bill was passed by both
Houses embracing substantially the provisions of
the first and second sections of this bill, and it was
voted by the President.

The Grand Army of the Republic is an annual
National Encampment adopted a bill covering the
provisions of this act, and added thereto, as set out in a
third section, which relates to the pensions of widows
and the allowance to minor children. The material
amendment to the second section, which is the
main one, made by the Grand Army, was to elimi-
nate the condition of dependence, which it was
asserted was obnoxious to the ex-soldiers, because
it required that a soldier should prove himself a
pauper before he could obtain its benefits, and be-
cause it was distasteful to the whole ex-soldier
population to make the honorable roll of pension-
ers a roll upon which paupers, because of their
poverty, could be placed. The Senate inserted
condition in this section similar to the one con-
tained in the vetoed bill, and so the bill came to
the House.

Col. Matson forgets that the high purpose
of all this legislation has been to save all
men who were the blue honorably from
having to accept alms from the local authori-
ties. It was to spare them such humiliation
that the G. A. R. has constantly urged the
passage of general pension bills.

Very strangely, Col. Matson also forgets

that in a preceding paragraph he has made
a claim of sympathy with this desire of the
veterans to spare their disabled comrades
the shame of pauperism, and used it as a
pretext for emasculating the bill as it came
from the Senate.

"We go further and beyond that asked by
the Grand Army of the Republic," says Col.
Matson, with an admiration for his own gen-
erosity, that he cannot conceal and does not
try to, "and provide the same kind of a pen-
sion to all who are now 62 years of age, and
to all who shall become 62 years of age, from
and after that period during their natural
lives."

How will this parade of giving more than
is asked stand examination? Let us see:
The G. A. R. ask for \$12 a month for all dis-
abled veterans. Col. Matson responds by offer-
ing the disabled veteran one cent a month
for every day that he served in the army,
and claims that this will be a more just as
well as generous provision, because it is
greatly in favor of the long-term soldier as
against the short service. Now one cent a
day is \$3.65 a year, and the man who served
his full three years will only get \$10.95 or
\$1.05 a month less than the G. A. R. demand.

The talk about giving more to the men who
served through the entire war is a catchy
bombast. As a matter of fact, comparatively
few men served more than three
years, and vastly fewer of them are alive to-
day. The majority of these were used up
by their long service that they are doubtless
already on the rolls at higher rates than Col.
Matson offers.

In order to make his per diem pension
equal to or exceed \$12 a month, a veteran would
have had to enlist early in 1861, to serve in
1864, and serve through till nearly the
end of the war. If he enlisted, as most of
the volunteers of 1861 did, late in that year,
and served until Lee surrendered, still under
the per diem plan, his pension would only
be in the neighborhood of \$12 a month. Of
the entire number of men enlisting in the
army not one-fifth came out under the call
of 1861 for three years, and of this one-fifth
not one-fifth served long enough to entitle
them to \$12 a month under the per diem
plan.

They were either killed, died of disease, or
were disabled and discharged.

The great mass of the volunteers came out
after August, 1862, and served less than
three years, being discharged in the Spring
and Summer of 1865. None of these would
in consequence get anywhere near \$12 a
month under Col. Matson's plan.

To all these men and to their widows the
scheme of Col. Matson and his colleagues of
the majority will work injustice. All that
a man could do for his country was to break
himself down or die in its service, and he or
his widow should not be made to suffer be-
cause this happened to him earlier than it
did to some other men.

The worst injustice is done to a large class
of short term men, who rendered most val-
uable service at a great crisis. The broken-
down survivors of those who, under the lead
of Blair and Lyon, held the Missouri Seces-
sionists at bay all that troubled Winter of
1860-61, finally saved the St. Louis arsenal
and the State of Missouri, drove Sterling
Price's horde across the State, and virtually
defeated them in the sanguinary battle of
Wilson's Creek, are put off with a petty 90
cents a month. The same is true of the men
who cleared West Virginia of the rebels, and
carried through the brilliant campaign
which ended with the death of Gen. Garnett
at Carnifex Ferry, and of the men who fought
gallantly at the first battle of Bull Run. The
survivors of Stannard's magnificent brigade
of nine-months' men, which volunteered to
remain beyond their time to aid in the bat-
tle of Gettysburg, and which did such in-
comparable service by throwing itself on the
flank of Pickett, and completing the de-
struction of his division, would be put off
with a miserable \$2.70 a month.

This, too, in face of the fact that the sur-
vivors of the war of 1812 were given \$8 a
month for service so brief as 14 days or one
hour's experience under fire, and last year
Col. Matson urged the passage of a bill to
give the men who served 60 days during
the war with Mexico a pension of \$8 a
month.

STATUS OF THE PENSION BILL.

Last week Col. C. C. Matson, Chairman of
the House Committee on Invalid Pensions,
went to Indiana, presumably to attend to
his canvass for nomination for Governor of
the State.

Before leaving he deputed Mr. Bynum,
of Indiana, to report to the House the Dis-
ability Pension Bill, amended as we stated
last week.

Why this duty was not given to a member
of the committee—and especially to either
Mr. Pidecock, who stands next to Col. Matson
on the roll, or to some other of the gentle-
men who constitute the majority of the
committee, has not been explained. Mr.
Bynum is not a member, but belongs to the
Committees on Ways and Means and Manu-
factures.

A large portion of the committee—possi-
bly all of it, and certainly the six gentlemen
who compose the minority—were not in-
formed of this act of the Chairman, and
they were taken completely by surprise
when, last Saturday, Mr. Bynum arose in his
place, and without preliminaries, and in so
low a tone of voice as to be inaudible to a
large portion of those in the House, reported
the bill, which the Speaker announced would
be referred to the Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union, and be
printed. No attempt was made by Mr.
Bynum to secure a date for its consideration.

Mr. Gallinger, of New Hampshire, was the
only member of the minority of the commit-
tee who was aware of what was going on, and
he immediately asked leave to submit a re-
port which would represent the views of the

minority of the committee, and be printed
along with the majority report.

The minority of the Committee are now
preparing their report, and it will be ready
for presentation within a few days.

We understand that it will favor some
form of the per diem plan as a separate and
independent measure, to be acted upon by
the House at an early date; but it will take
the strongest possible ground that the first
duty of the House is to at once pass the
Disability Bill, substantially as it came from
the Senate. It should do this to relieve at
once the most necessitous cases among the
veterans, who have been denied relief an
inexcessively long time, and to clear the way
for other legislation.

There can be no dispute that this is the
only course dictated by a genuine regard for
the interests of the veterans. The crudely-
drawn and ill-considered amendments which
have been made to the Disability Bill change
its character and rob it of much of its justice
and beneficence.

Instead of giving—as the framers and the
indorsees of the original bill contemplated—
to every broken-down and dependent veter-
an enough to provide him at least the bare
necessaries of life, and save him from actual
want, the amendments propose to dole out
to a large proportion of these broken-down
men beggarly stipends, which will not buy
enough to merely hold body and soul to-
gether.

Still worse, no assurance is offered that even
these will be given. After waiting nearly
five months—allowing a measure which has
been discussed, considered and approved of,
almost interminably, to sleep in idleness all
that time—there is suddenly sprung upon
Congress, at the moment when it is embark-
ing upon a long and exciting discussion of
the tariff, appropriations and other mo-
mentous questions, a new departure in pen-
sion legislation, which none of the Repre-
sentatives have had opportunity or reason
to examine. It is reported as a substitute
for the Disability Bill, and intended to re-
move that measure from Congressional
action, and at the same time it itself is not
pressed upon the attention of the House
with that earnestness that gives promise of
success. It defeats the Disability Bill, pro-
poses much less relief than that bill offered,
and yet does nothing to insure that Congress
will really grant this before adjournment.

It is impossible to see how the action of
the Chairman and the majority of the Com-
mittee on Invalid Pensions can be made to
appear otherwise than a deliberate attempt
to thwart the wishes of the great mass of
veterans for substantial relief to their needy
comrades.

The long delay in taking action on the
Disability Bill, the wasting away of the
greater part of the session without doing
anything, the hasty and radical change of
its main features at this late day, the load-
ing it down with new features, the indiffer-
ent manner in which it was presented to the
House, the noticeable failure to press for an
early consideration—all seem significant of
lukewarm interest on the part of a man and
men from whom the veterans had reason to
expect better things.

We earnestly wish it were otherwise. We
wish that we could praise Col. Matson as
warmly for his zeal in behalf of the veterans
as it was our pleasant duty to do last year,
when he was so cordial in his support of the
Dependent Pension Bill, and labored with
knowledge and zeal to secure its passage
over the President's veto. Other influences
seem to now have control, much to the
detriment of the interests of veterans.

We will hope, however, for better results
when the matter is once fairly before the
House. Maj. Morrill has moved that the
consideration of the Disability Bill be made
the regular order for May 2 and 3, and the
resolution has been referred to the Commit-
tee on Invalid Pensions.

If a fair hearing can be secured before the
House and a vote be reached, we are san-
guine that its success is assured. Many
more than a majority of the Representatives
have definitely promised to vote for the
bill, and if given an opportunity will re-
deem their promises.

THE FALL OF RICHMOND.
By Maj-Gen. A. V. Kautz.